

Message Text

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22

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 /017 W

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R 220930Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8484

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 6921

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC YO

SUBJ: SCS ARREST HANDBOOK

REF: STATE A-4007

1. AIRGRAM UNDER REFERENCE STATES "POSTS WILL NOTE THAT HANDBOOK CONFIRMS DEPARTMENT'S POLICY OF SCHEDULED MONTHLY VISITS BY CONSULAR OFFICERS TO ALL PRISONERS IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT." THE EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY DEPARTMENT POLICY REGARDING "SCHEDULED MONTHLY VISITS" UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE AIRGRAM AND HANDBOOK. IF SUCH A POLICY WAS IN EFFECT BEFORE THE EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT IT. WHEN SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT EUR CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN APRIL POLICY OF MONTHLY VISITS WAS MENTIONED ONLY AS POSSIBILITY.

2. MONTHLY VISITS TO ALL PRISONERS IN THE BELGRADE CONSULAR DISTRICT ARE NOT FEASIBLE AND IN MOST INSTANCES NOT NECESSARY. AS EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT BEFORE IT USUALLY TAKES 3-6 WEEKS TO ARRANGE A PRISON VISIT THROUGH FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. OF FIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS PRESENTLY IN JAIL IN BELGRADE CONSULAR DISTRICT, ONLY ONE IS LOCATED ANYWHERE NEAR BELGRADE. TO VISIT HIM TAKES ONLY 3-4 HOURS. HOWEVER, THE OTHER PRISONERS ARE LOCATED AT LEAST A FULL DAY'S DRIVE FROM BELGRADE AND TO SEND SOMEONE ESPECIALLY FOR ONE-HOUR PRISON VISIT TAKES MINIMUM OF TWO DAYS (EVEN BY PLANE) AND COSTS ABOUT \$100. THUS IT IS SIMPLY NOT PRACTICAL EVEN IF WE COULD GET PERMISSION FROM GOY TO DO SO.

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3. IT SEEMS TO US TO MAKE MUCH MORE SENSE TO SCHEDULE
REGULAR VISITS TO ALL PRISONERS THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR WHEN
SUCH VISITS CAN BE COMBINED WITH OTHER CONSULAR BUSINESS INCLUDING
FIELD INVESTIGATIONS FOR SSA. IF THERE ARE SPECIAL REASONS FOR
VISITING A PARTICULAR PRISONER MORE OFTEN, IT WOULD BE DONE. IN
MOST CASES CONTACT BY MAIL AND THROUGH LAWYERS OR FAMILY IS
SUFFICIENT BETWEEN VISITS EVERY THREE MONTHS OR SO.

4. WE NOTE LACK OF ANY GUIDANCE CONCERNING PRIVACY ACT IN
HANDBOOK. THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.
SILBERMAN

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